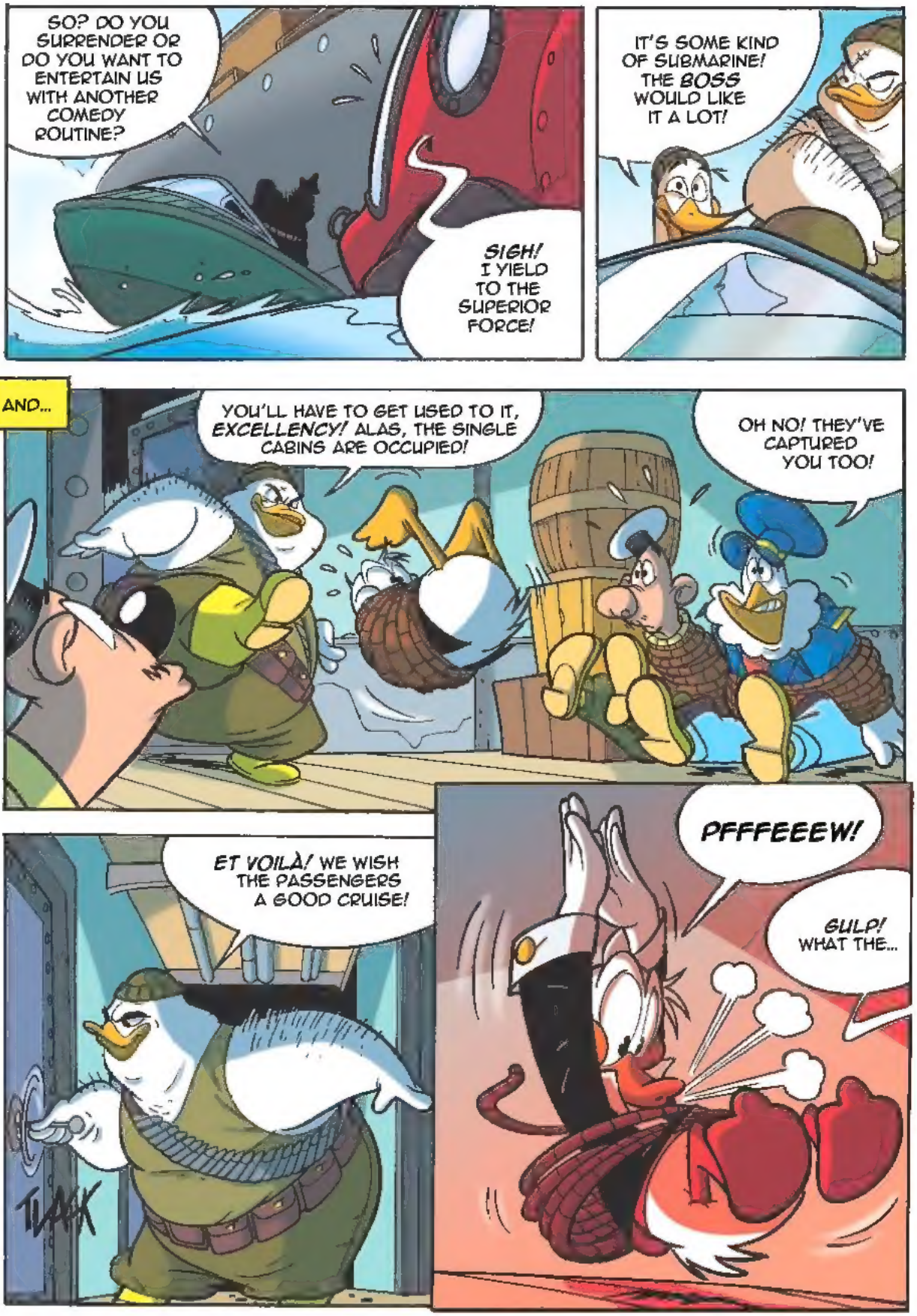
MISSIONE
Cuore termico
EPISODIO #3
AN INVALUABLE BATHYSCAPHE, WHICH THE FATE OF THE PLANET DEPENDS ON! A SINGLE DUCK TO DEFEND IT FROM A CRIMINAL SPY ASSOCIATION! BASICALLY, THIS STORY IS ONLY MISSING *PIRATES*...
WALT DISNEY
NO IT DOESN'T! IT HAS THOSE TOO!
IT'S TIME! I'LL COME UPON THEM FROM BEHIND, WITHOUT GIVING THEM TIME TO REACT!
DOUBLEDUCK
I-2799-3

Testo di **Marco Bosco** - Disegni di **Francesco D'Ippolito**
Supervisione colore **Max Monteduro**

?!
HANDS IN THE AIR!
HE HE! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING WITH THAT TOY?
CAREFUL! THIS TOY HAS A HYPERSENSITIVE TRIGGER!
WHAT A COINCIDENCE! OURS ARE ALSO RATHER SENSITIVE!
GLOM!
WELL, DUCK? SHALL WE SEE WHO'S GOT THE QUICKER FINGER?
THANKS, MAYBE ANOTHER TIME!
GET HIM!
ZAWW
HEY! WHERE DID HE GO?
SUCKER JUMPED INTO THE SEA!

MY ONLY SALVATION IS *WHITE DEEP!*
SPLASH
CIOFF
*PANT!* LUCKY THAT THE PIRATES HAVE NO UNDER-WATER VESSELS!
I'LL IMMERSE QUICKLY, BRINGING ME TO A SAFE DISTANCE!
AND THEN I'LL SEE TO COUNTERATTA... *OFF!*
*HI HI!* WHAT DOES HE THINK HE'S DOING?
MAYBE HE WANTS TO TAKE US OUT ON A WALK ON A LEASH!
*ARGH!* I FORGOT TO UNTIE THE HAWSER!
VRRRRRRRK


SO? DO YOU SURRENDER OR DO YOU WANT TO ENTERTAIN US WITH ANOTHER COMEDY ROUTINE?
SIGH! I YIELD TO THE SUPERIOR FORCE!
IT'S SOME KIND OF SUBMARINE! THE BOSS WOULD LIKE IT A LOT!
AND...
YOU'LL HAVE TO GET USED TO IT, EXCELLENCY! ALAS, THE SINGLE CABINS ARE OCCUPIED!
OH NO! THEY'VE CAPTURED YOU TOO!
ET VOILÀ! WE WISH THE PASSENGERS A GOOD CRUISE!
TLAK
PFFFEEEW!
GULP! WHAT THE...

YOU GOT OUT OF THE ROPES! NICE ONE!
IT'S AN OLD TRICK! AS THEY TIED ME UP I INFLATED MY THORAX AND NOW I LET THE AIR OUT OF MY LUNGS!
WHAT DO THOSE SCOUNDRELS WANT?
THE USUAL, I IMAGINE: PLUNDER THE SHIP AND SEQUESTRATE THE CREW!
BY SOUNDING THE ALARM, MAY WE RECEIVE AID IN TIME?
WELL, THAT I HOPE!
RATHER, I THINK SO BECAUSE...
"... YESTERDAY WE CAME ACROSS A NAVY FRIGATE, ENGAGED IN HUNTING DOWN PIRATES!"

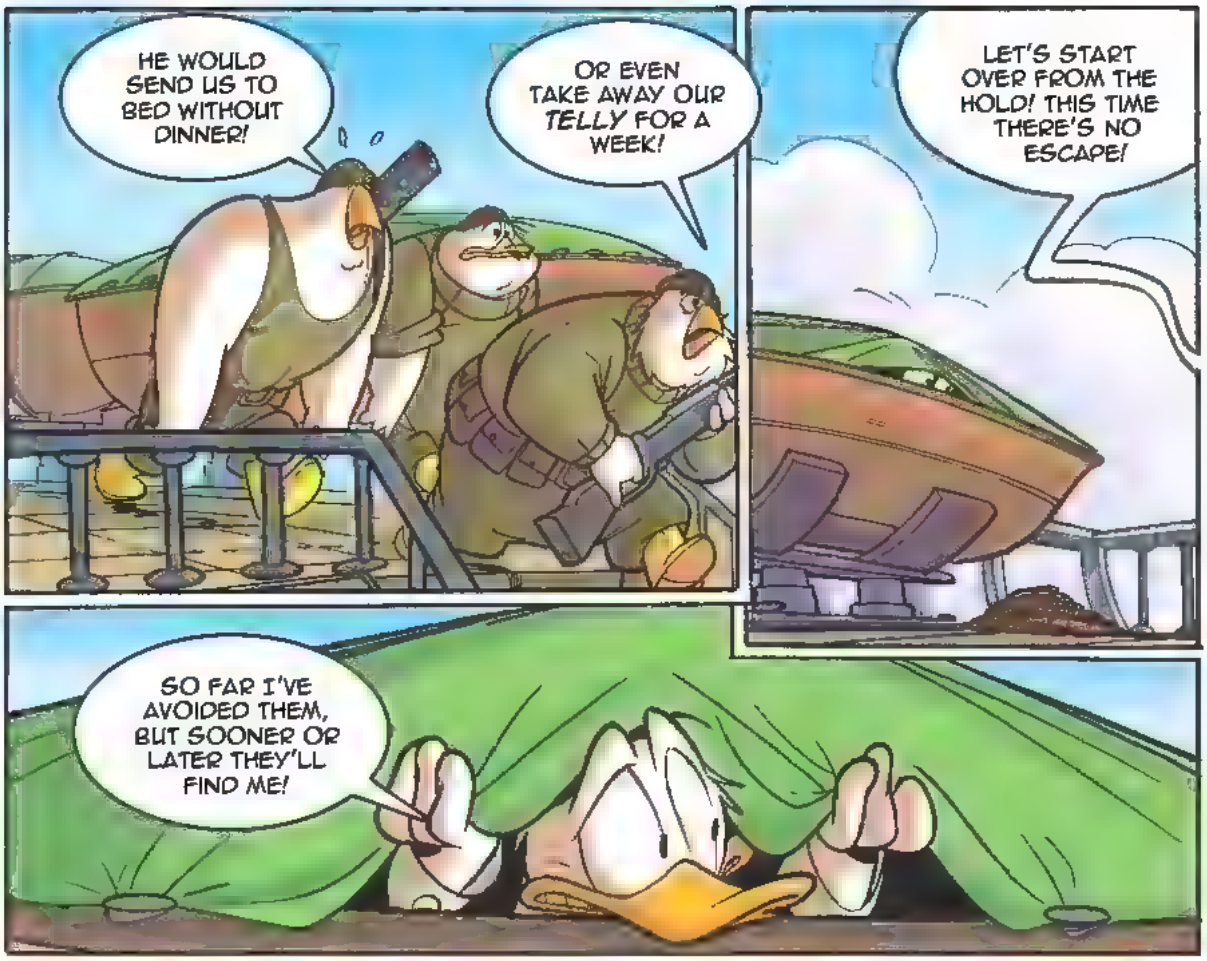
BUT THEY'VE TAKEN THE PHONES! HOW DO WE GIVE ALARM?
WE'LL USE THE ONBOARD RADIO!
FIRST, THOUGH, WE HAVE TO ESCAPE!
EASY TO SAY! WE'RE LOCKED IN HERE!
"YES, BUT A SOLUTION IS ALWAYS FOUND!"
LOOK AT IT, BOSS! ISN'T IT A BEAUTY?
YOU WERE RIGHT, RAMON! THIS TOY WILL BE USEFUL!
A VEHICLE LIKE THAT IS IDEAL FOR BOARDING SHIPS WITHOUT BEING SEEN!
WE'VE TRIED EVERYTHING, BUT WE CAN'T START THE ENGINE!
*HUH?* WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

MAYBE THERE'S A FAILURE! THUS IT'S TOWED BY THE SHIP!
BRING THE DUCK HERE! HE'LL TELL US!
WELL, THE DOOR'S NOT REINFORCED! WE CAN UNHINGE IT WITH A MICROCHARGE EXPLOSIVE!
SGRUNT! HOW DO WE FIX IT, THEN?
YES WE DO! HERE IT IS!
A PIECE OF GUM?
I FEAR YOU'RE NEGLECTING A SMALL DETAIL: WE DON'T HAVE MICROCHARGE EXPLOSIVES!
HUH?
LOOKS LIKE IT... MUNCH! IT ACTUALLY IS... MUNCH... A SPECIAL MINT FLAVORED DETONATING PLASTIC!

FRIEND, ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T HIT YOUR HEAD ON A BOLLARD?
TSK! LOOK NOW, SAILORS OF LITTLE FAITH!
JUST GOTTA ATTACH THE PLASTIC TO THE DOOR AND...
... TAKE COVER! I SUGGEST YOU PLUG YOUR EARS!
SBRANG
NOW, WHAT DO YOU SAY?
HURRICANES! THAT'S ASTONISHING!
JUST LIKE IN THAT JAMES POND MOVIE!

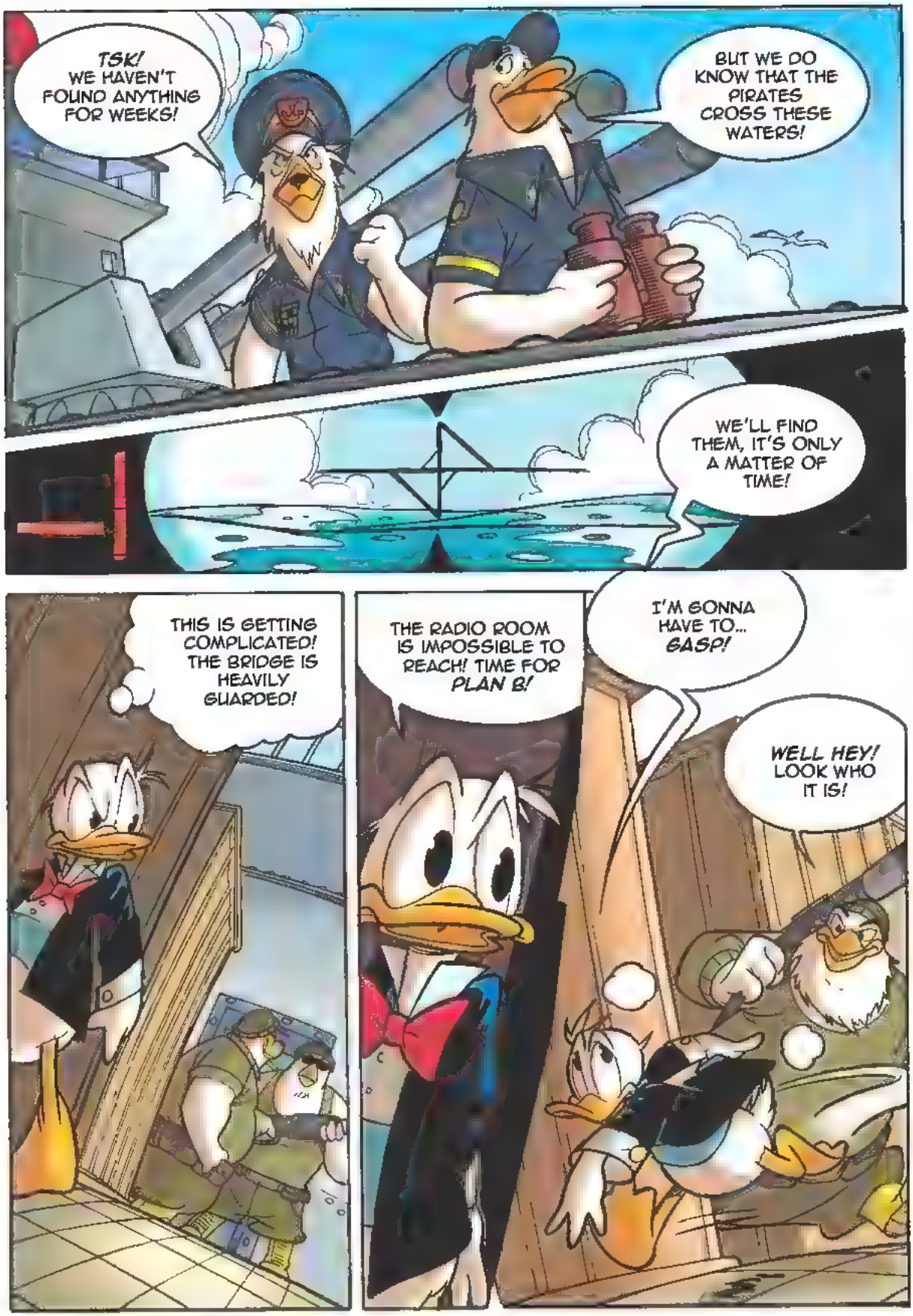
YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE A SECRET AGENT?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
COME ON, NOW! WE HAVE TO GET TO THE RADIO ROOM!
WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO GET THE DUCK? CAN'T RAMON TAKE CARE OF IT HIMSELF?
YOU KNOW THAT GUY IS EXEMPT FROM CERTAIN JOBS!
WHO, THE BOSS' FAVORITE? WHEN HAS HE EVER?
ALARM!
THE PRISONERS ARE ESCAPING!
STOP WHERE YOU ARE!
GASP! HAVE TO RUN! LET'S TRY THIS WAY!

HANDS UP!
I'LL FOLLOW THAT BIRD! INFORM THE OTHERS ON DECK!
WHAAAT?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN "ESCAPED"?
RAMON, I WARN YOU THAT I'M STARTING TO BECOME IMPATIENT!
GET ON BOARD AND BRING ME THAT DUCK! NOW!
GLOM! I'M ON IT!
AN HOUR LATER...
WE'VE TURNED THE SHIP! WHERE COULD HE BE HIDING?
IF WE DON'T RECAPTURE HIM, THE BOSS WILL HAVE US PAY DEARLY!


HE WOULD SEND US TO BED WITHOUT DINNER!
OR EVEN TAKE AWAY OUR *TELLY* FOR A WEEK!
LET'S START OVER FROM THE HOLD! THIS TIME THERE'S NO ESCAPE!
SO FAR I'VE AVOIDED THEM, BUT SOONER OR LATER THEY'LL FIND ME!

I NEED TO GET TO THE RADIO ROOM FAST AND CONTACT THE FRIGATE...

"... HOPING THAT IT'S STILL AROUND!"
ARE THERE ANY NEWS? YOU SEE ANYTHING ON THE HORIZON?
NOTHING AT ALL, COMMANDER! ONLY SEA AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE!

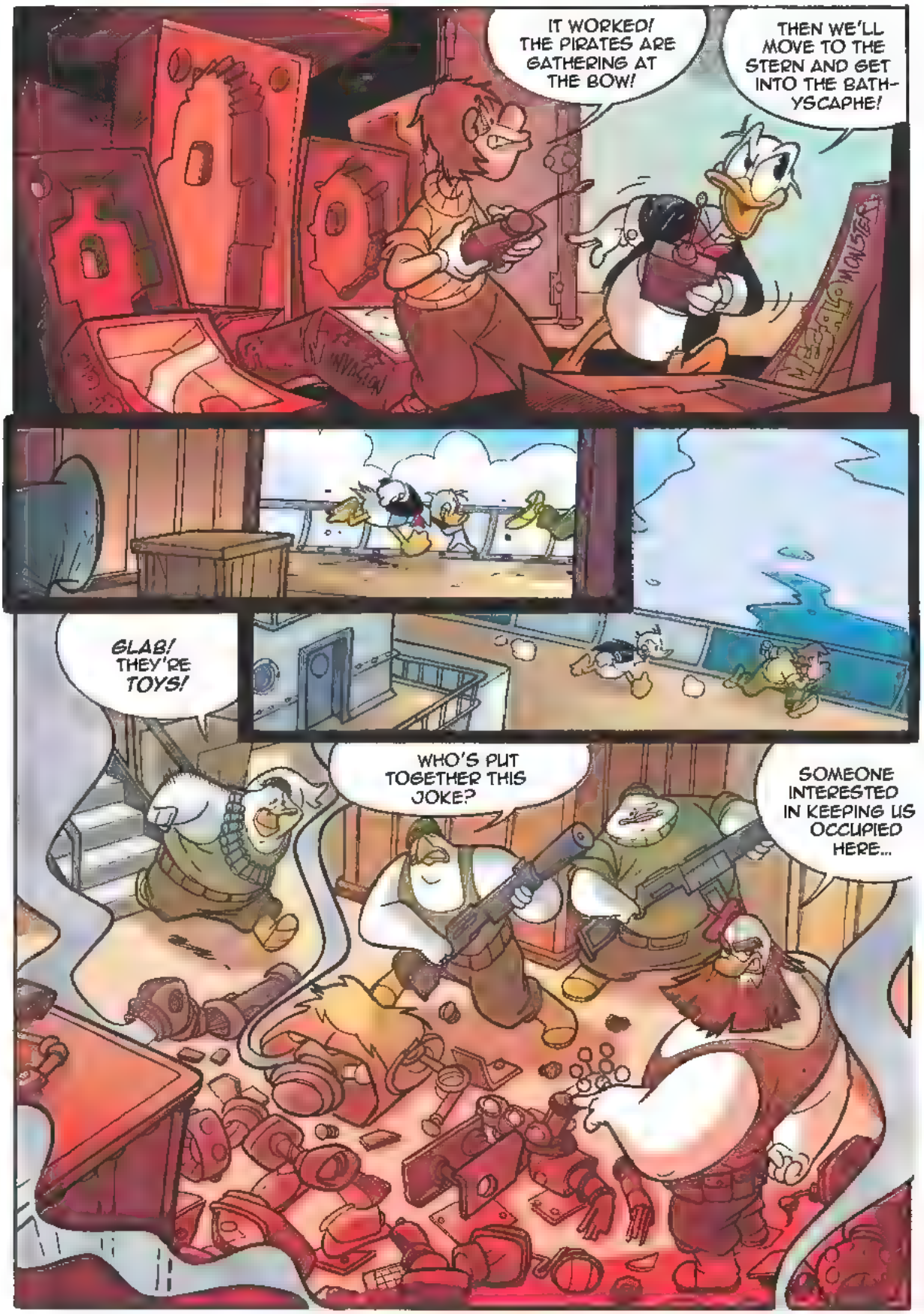

TSK! WE HAVEN'T FOUND ANYTHING FOR WEEKS!
BUT WE DO KNOW THAT THE PIRATES CROSS THESE WATERS!
WE'LL FIND THEM, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME!
THIS IS GETTING COMPLICATED! THE BRIDGE IS HEAVILY GUARDED!
THE RADIO ROOM IS IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH! TIME FOR PLAN B!
I'M GONNA HAVE TO... GASP!
WELL HEY! LOOK WHO IT IS!

WHAT A COINCIDENCE! WE WERE LOOKING FOR YOU!
SERUNT! YOU COULD HAVE LET ME KNOW, I WOULD HAVE COME EARLIER!
GRUP
URGH!
AND WHO ARE YOU?
NAME'S SVENSON! I'M THE SECOND ENGINEER!
WHEN THE BOARDING STARTED, I WAS ON DECK TO GET SOME FRESH AIR!
"I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO GIVE ALARM! SO, I HID MYSELF!"
I THOUGHT TO DROP A LIFEBOAT AND TRY TO ESCAPE!
TOO RISKY! I HAVE A BETTER IDEA!

THERE'S A RADIO IN MY BATHYSCAPHE! WE CAN USE IT TO CALL FOR HELP!
THE PROBLEM IS GETTING THERE WITHOUT THE PIRATES SEEING US!
HMM! WE SHOULD CREATE A DIVERSION!
YEAH, AND PERHAPS I'VE FOUND IT!
RADIO CONTROLLED TOYS
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HELP ME OPEN THIS CONTAINER, THEN I'LL EXPLAIN!
USELESS FOOLS, DON'T TELL ME THAT DUCK IS STILL ON THE LOOSE?
EHEM... WE'RE SORRY, BOSS! THE SHIP IS BIG AND FULL OF HIDING PLACES!

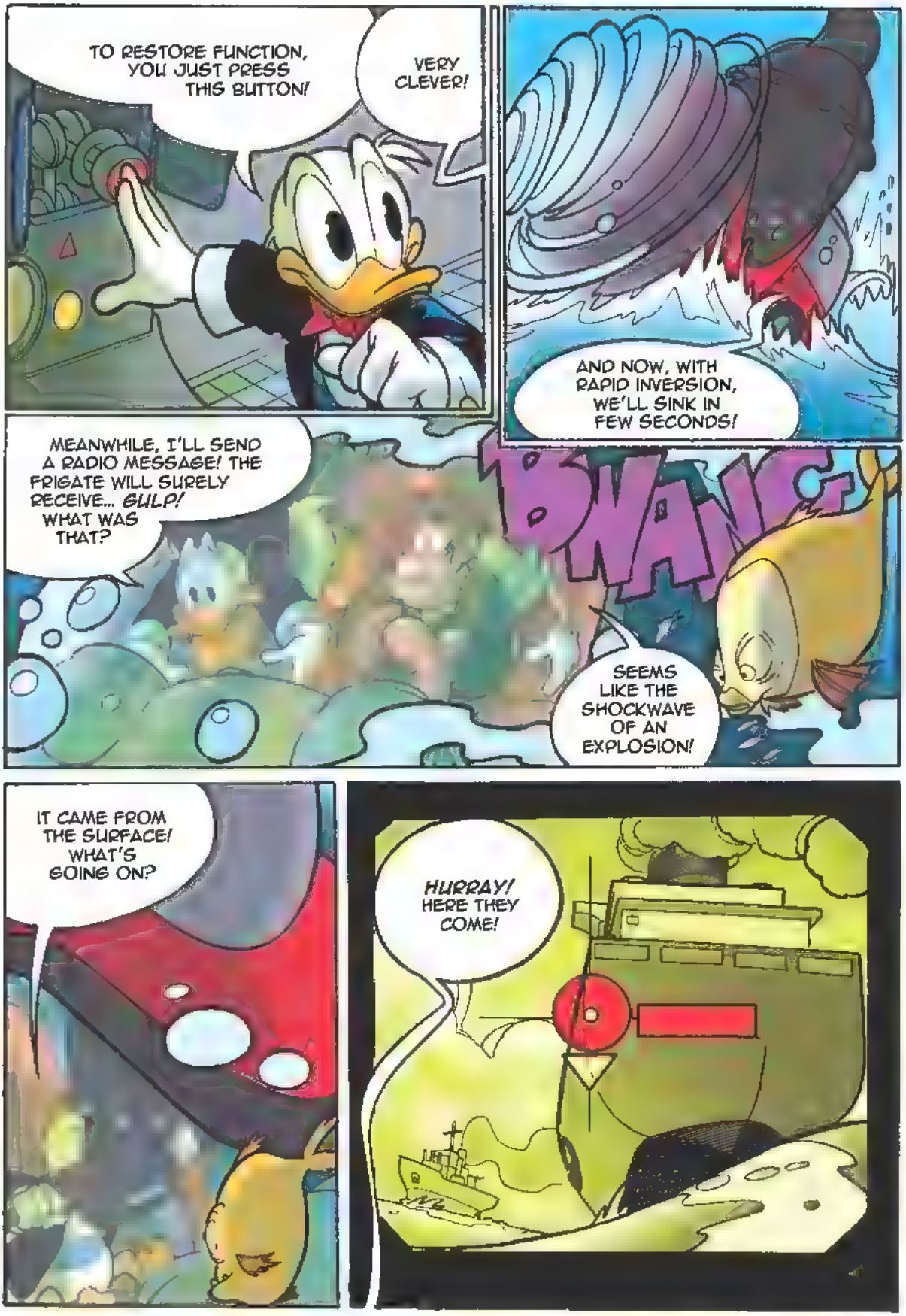
GRRR! IT'S YOU WHO...
HELP! ALIENS ARE ATTACKING!
WHAT ARE YOU JABBERING ABOUT? YOU'VE GOTTEN SUNSTROKE?
IT'S LIKE I SAID! COME SEE!
LOOK AT THEM, THEY'RE SCARY!
GULP! I DON'T BELIEVE MY EYES!

"ALIENS", EH? TSK!
RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT
WOW! YOU DESTROYED THEM, BOSS!
RAMON, DO YOU STILL NOT GET IT?
THERE WERE BURSTS OF GUNFIRE!
THEY CAME FROM THE BRIDGE!


IT WORKED! THE PIRATES ARE GATHERING AT THE BOW!
THEN WE'LL MOVE TO THE STERN AND GET INTO THE BATHYSCAPHE!
INVASION
MECHANO-MONSTER
GLAB! THEY'RE TOYS!
WHO'S PUT TOGETHER THIS JOKE?
SOMEONE INTERESTED IN KEEPING US OCCUPIED HERE...

... TO ACT UNDISTURBED SOMEWHERE ELSE!
AH, YES? AND WHERE?
WE NEED TO FIND OUT, IDIOTS! MOVE IT!
C-CALM DOWN, BOSS! REMEMBER YOU HAVE HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE!
FIRST OF ALL, WE'LL UNMOOR THIS THING!
PRUDENCE, NOW! THERE MAY BE SOME VILLAIN ONBOARD!

COAST IS CLEAR! ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO START THE ENGINE AND GET GOING!
START THE ENGINE? BUT ISN'T THERE A FAULT TO REPAIR?
THERE'S NO FAULT! I HAD *LOCKED* THE CONTROLS!
"BEFORE I WAS CAPTURED, I DEACTIVATED IT WITH A SECRET DEVICE!"


TO RESTORE FUNCTION, YOU JUST PRESS THIS BUTTON!
VERY CLEVER!
AND NOW, WITH RAPID INVERSION, WE'LL SINK IN FEW SECONDS!
MEANWHILE, I'LL SEND A RADIO MESSAGE! THE FRIGATE WILL SURELY RECEIVE... GULP! WHAT WAS THAT?
BWANG
SEEMS LIKE THE SHOCKWAVE OF AN EXPLOSION!
IT CAME FROM THE SURFACE! WHAT'S GOING ON?
HURRAY! HERE THEY COME!

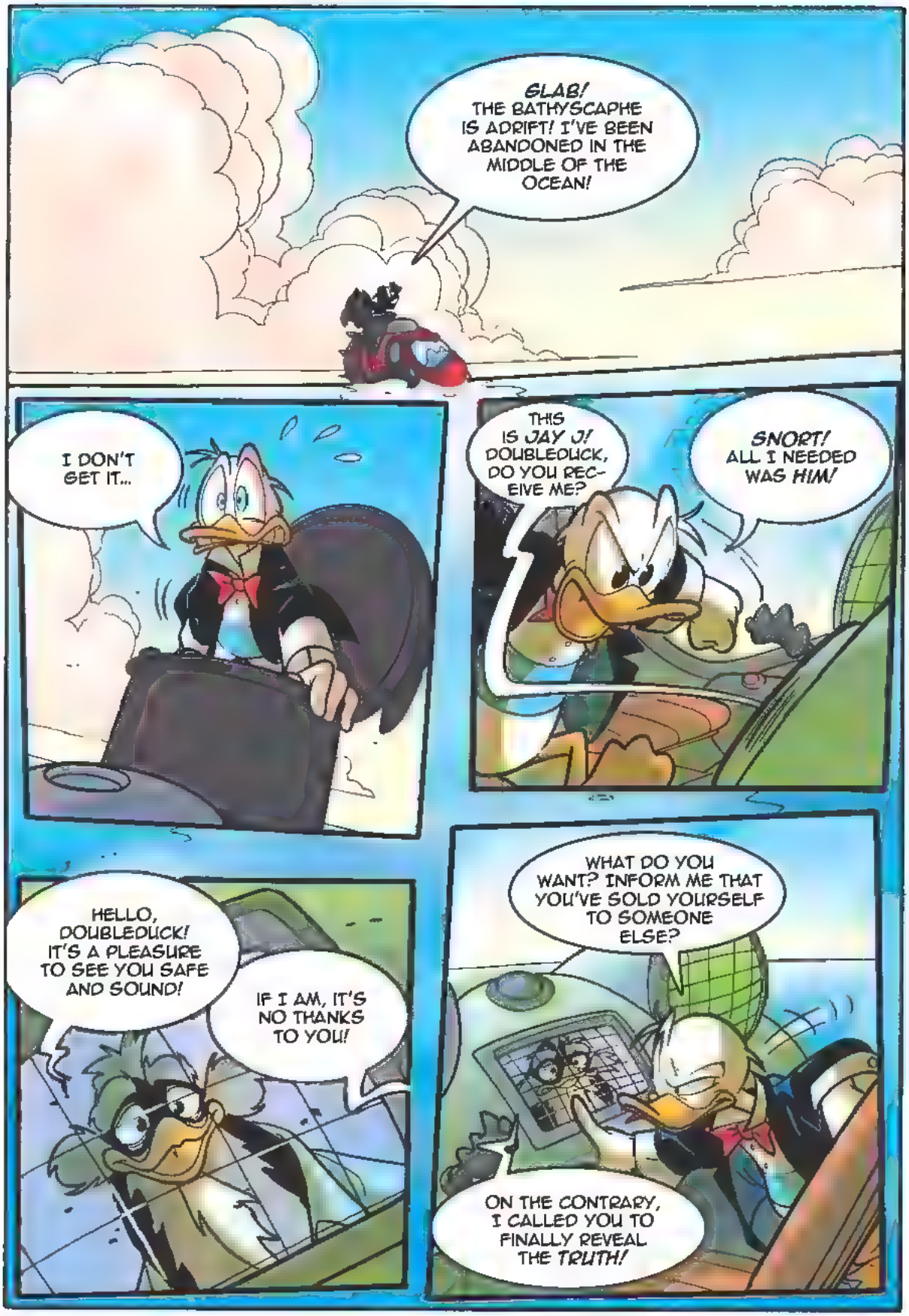
DROP YOUR WEAPONS! THERE'S NO ESCAPE!
BOOM
BWANG
ARGH! THE NAVY!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
D-DON'T SHOOT, WE SURR-ENDER!

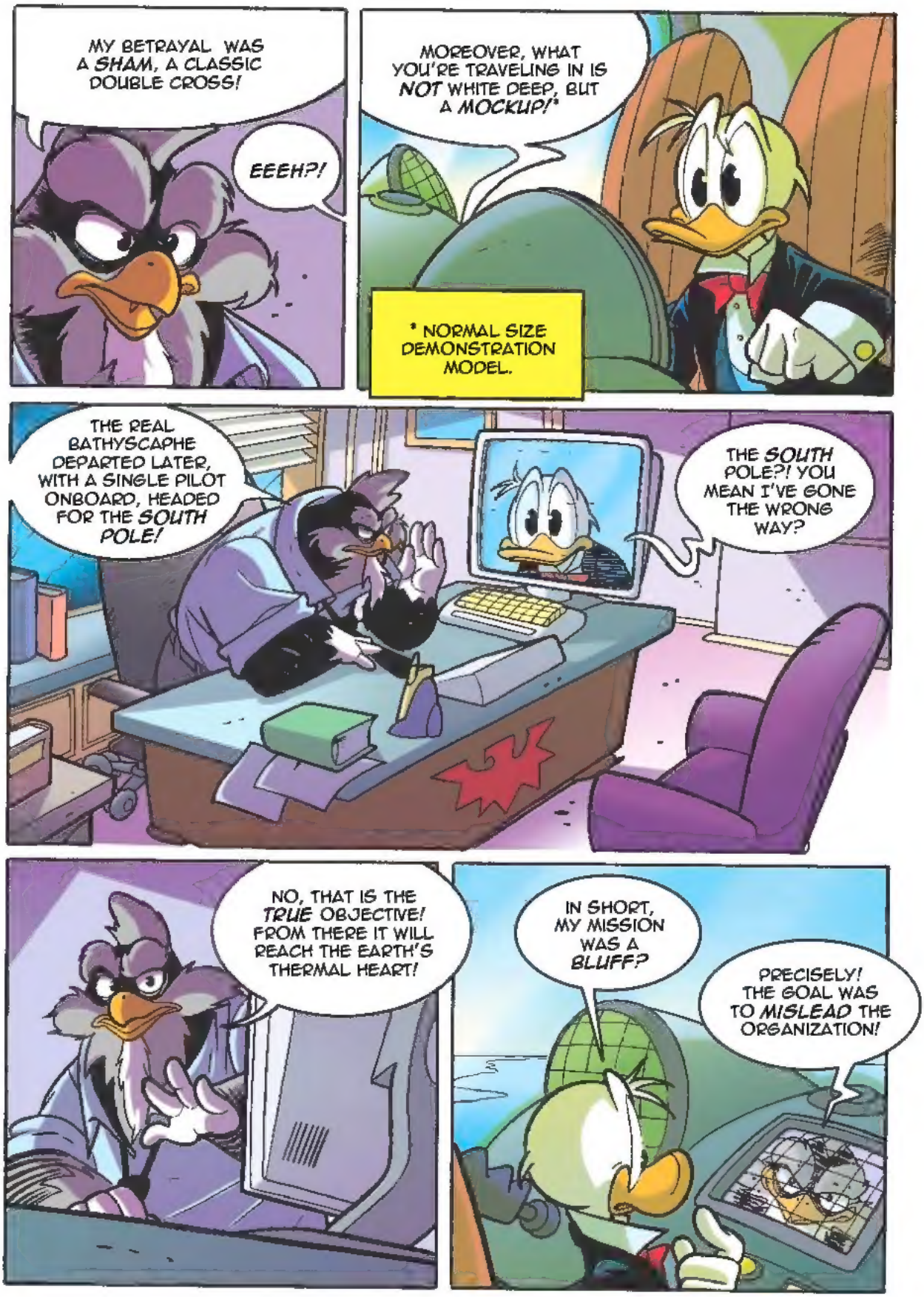
BUT... I JUST SENT THE S.O.S.! HOW CAN THEY ALREADY BE HERE?
SIMPLE: WE CALLED THEM!
GASP! WHAT'S WITH THAT PISTOL?
IT SIGNIFIES THAT YOUR JOURNEY IS OVER! I'M WITH THE ORGAN-IZATION!
?!
THEN, YOU'RE NOT AN ENGINEER!
OF COURSE NOT! I GOT ON THE SHIP AN HOUR AGO!
I SEE, YOU STARTED CHASING ME AGAIN AFTER THE ENCOUNTER WITH THE CEPHALO-POD FRIENDS!
THAT'S RIGHT DUCK! THIS TIME, HOWEVER, IN A SMALL SUB-MARINE!

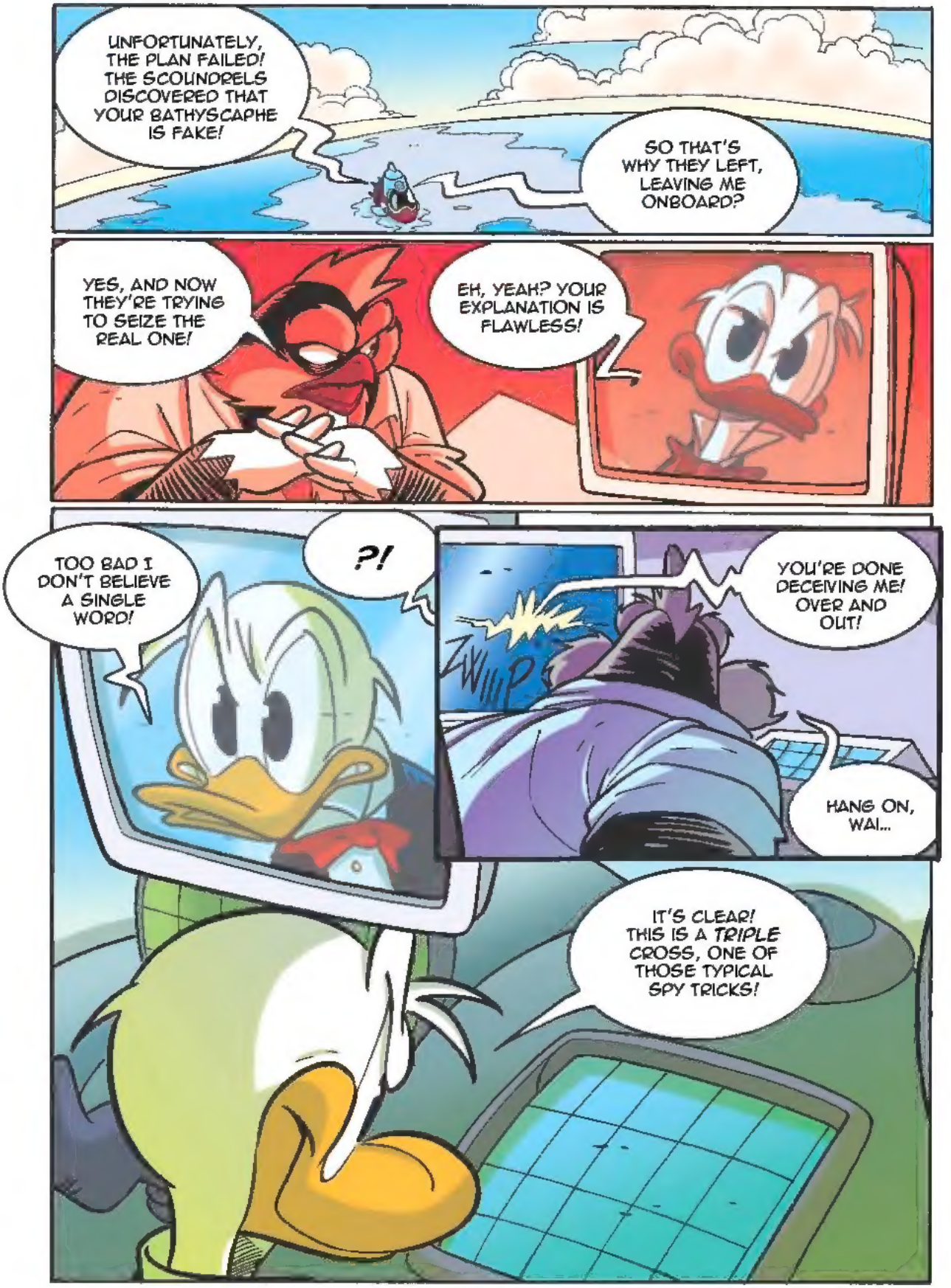
AND WHEN YOU CAUGHT UP, YOU DISCOVERED THAT I WAS IN THE HANDS OF PIRATES!
AND THAT THE BATHYSCAPHE HAD BROKEN DOWN! WE LEARNED THIS BY INTERCEPTING THEIR TRANS-CEIVERS!
WE SUSPECTED THAT THE "FAILURE" WAS YOUR DOING! THUS, WE APPROACHED THE SHIP...
"... AND I SNUCK ABOARD!"
I NEEDED TO FREE YOU AND GET YOU TO WHITE DEEP, IN ORDER TO GET IT WORKING!
SGRUNT! THANKS FOR THE HELP!
LASTLY, YOUR PARTNERS HAD GIVEN THE FRIGATE OUR POSITION!
YOU GUESSED IT!

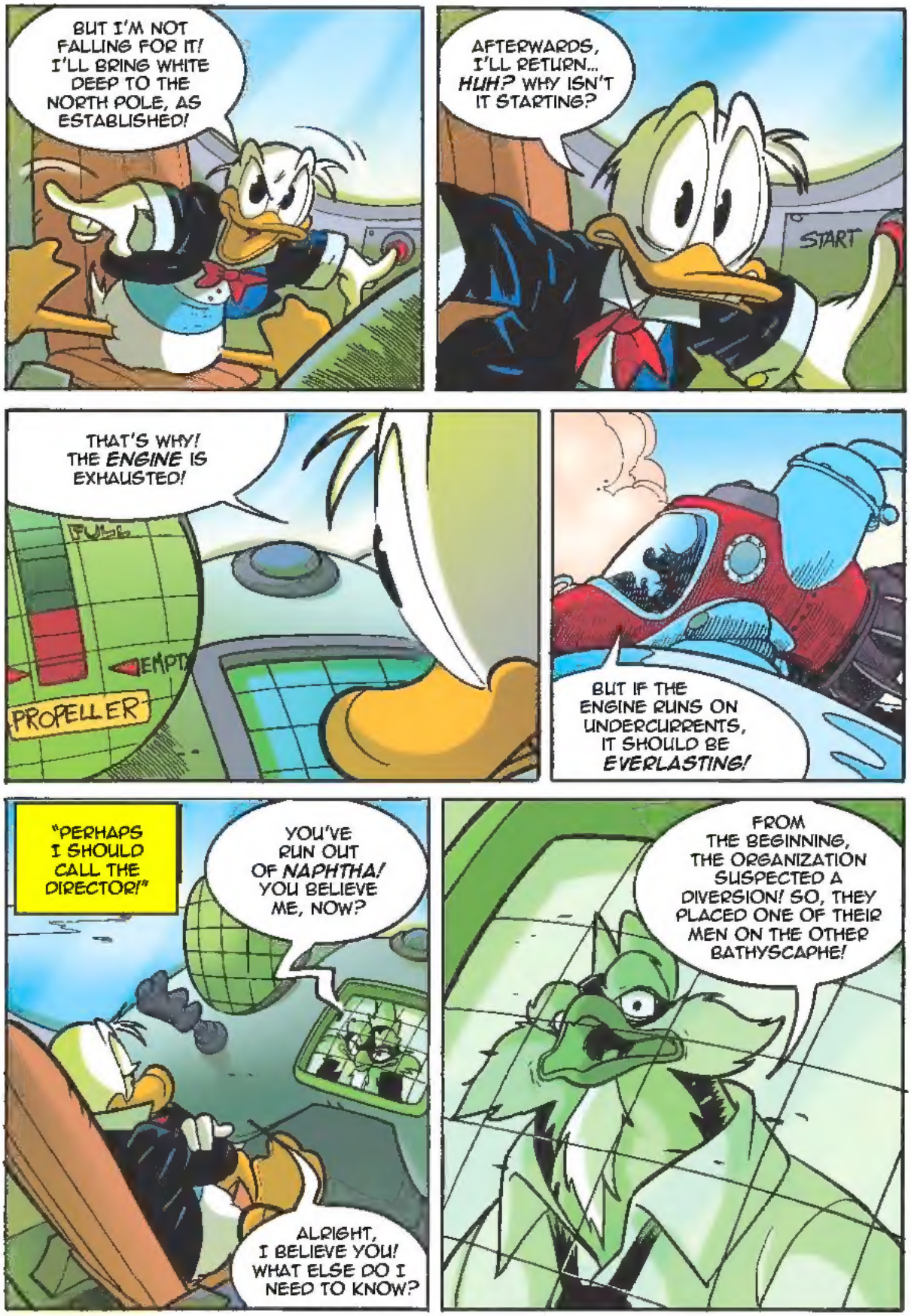
A NICE BATTLE WAS IDEAL FOR DISTRACTING THE PIRATES...
... AND ALLOW US TO FLEE UNDISTURBED! GOOD PLAN!
GLAD YOU LIKED IT! NOW EXCUSE ME, I HAVE WORK TO DO!
JUMP
THIS IS LYNX! I'VE ASSUMED CONTROL OF THE BATHY-SCAPHE!
RECEIVED!
GET IN OUR WAKE! WE'RE RETURNING TO BASE!

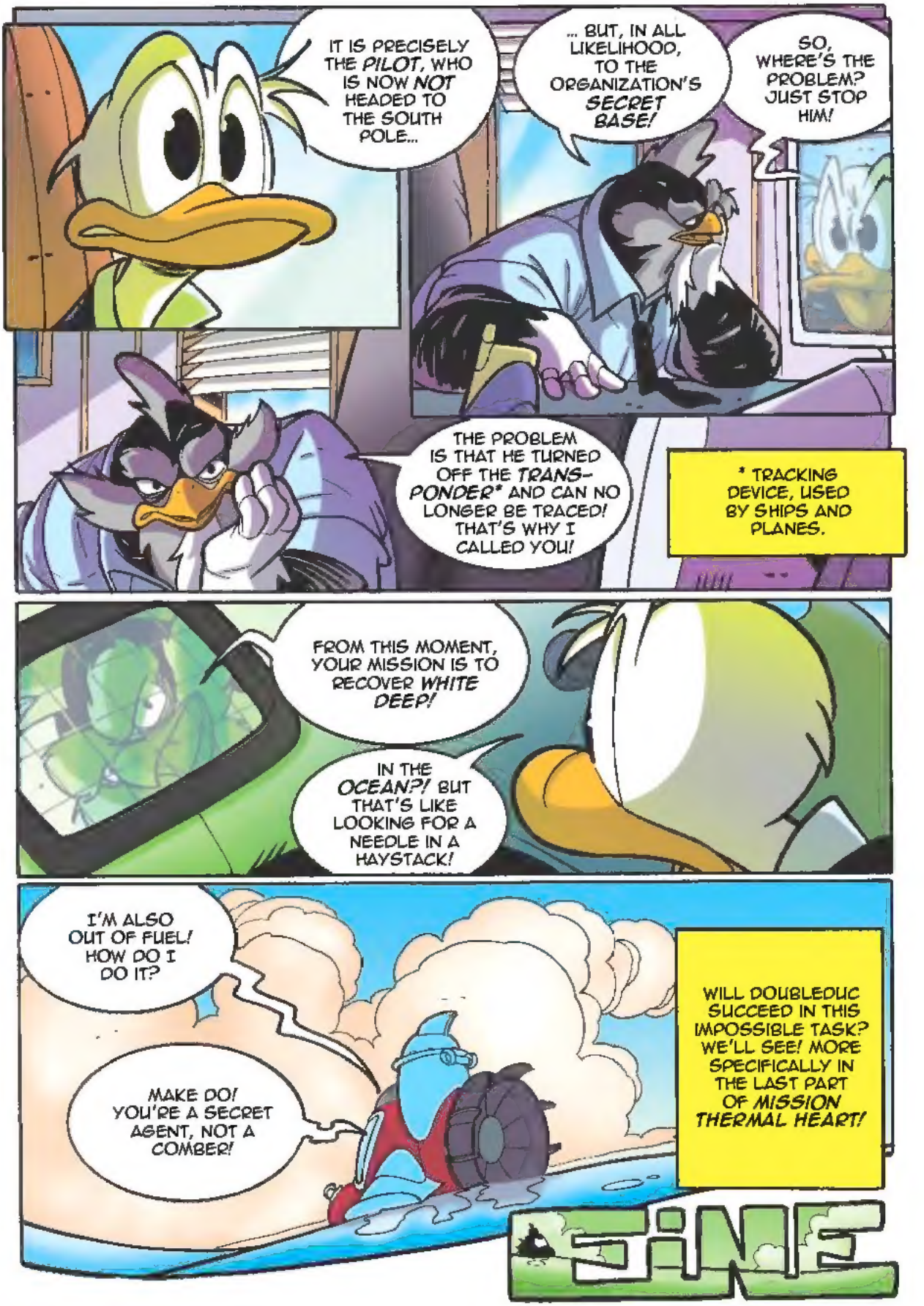
OW, OW! WHAT TIME IS IT...
THAT CROOK SVENSON MUST HAVE KNOCKED ME OUT AND... WHERE DID HE GO? THERE'S NO ONE ONBOARD!
AND WHY AM I ON SURFACE LEVEL?
THE HATCH IS OPEN! I WANT TO SEE WHAT...


SLAB! THE BATHYSCAPHE IS ADRIFT! I'VE BEEN ABANDONED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN!
I DON'T GET IT...
THIS IS JAY J! DOUBLEDUCK, DO YOU RECEIVE ME?
SNORT! ALL I NEEDED WAS HIM!
HELLO, DOUBLEDUCK! IT'S A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU SAFE AND SOUND!
IF I AM, IT'S NO THANKS TO YOU!
WHAT DO YOU WANT? INFORM ME THAT YOU'VE SOLD YOURSELF TO SOMEONE ELSE?
ON THE CONTRARY, I CALLED YOU TO FINALLY REVEAL THE TRUTH!


MY BETRAYAL WAS A SHAM, A CLASSIC DOUBLE CROSS!
EEEH?!
MOREOVER, WHAT YOU'RE TRAVELING IN IS NOT WHITE DEEP, BUT A MOCKUP!*
* NORMAL SIZE DEMONSTRATION MODEL.
THE REAL BATHYSCAPHE DEPARTED LATER, WITH A SINGLE PILOT ONBOARD, HEADED FOR THE SOUTH POLE!
THE SOUTH POLE?! YOU MEAN I'VE GONE THE WRONG WAY?
NO, THAT IS THE TRUE OBJECTIVE! FROM THERE IT WILL REACH THE EARTH'S THERMAL HEART!
IN SHORT, MY MISSION WAS A BLUFF?
PRECISELY! THE GOAL WAS TO MISLEAD THE ORGANIZATION!


UNFORTUNATELY, THE PLAN FAILED! THE SCOUNDRELS DISCOVERED THAT YOUR BATHYSCAPHE IS FAKE!
SO THAT'S WHY THEY LEFT, LEAVING ME ONBOARD?
YES, AND NOW THEY'RE TRYING TO SEIZE THE REAL ONE!
EH, YEAH? YOUR EXPLANATION IS FLAWLESS!
TOO BAD I DON'T BELIEVE A SINGLE WORD!
?!
ZWIIP
YOU'RE DONE DECEIVING ME! OVER AND OUT!
HANG ON, WAI...
IT'S CLEAR! THIS IS A *TRIPLE* CROSS, ONE OF THOSE TYPICAL SPY TRICKS!


BUT I'M NOT FALLING FOR IT! I'LL BRING WHITE DEEP TO THE NORTH POLE, AS ESTABLISHED!
AFTERWARDS, I'LL RETURN... HUH? WHY ISN'T IT STARTING?
START
THAT'S WHY! THE ENGINE IS EXHAUSTED!
FULL
EMPTY
PROPELLER
BUT IF THE ENGINE RUNS ON UNDERCURRENTS, IT SHOULD BE EVERLASTING!
"PERHAPS I SHOULD CALL THE DIRECTOR!"
YOU'VE RUN OUT OF NAPHTHA! YOU BELIEVE ME, NOW?
ALRIGHT, I BELIEVE YOU! WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?
FROM THE BEGINNING, THE ORGANIZATION SUSPECTED A DIVERSION! SO, THEY PLACED ONE OF THEIR MEN ON THE OTHER BATHYSCAPHE!


IT IS PRECISELY THE PILOT, WHO IS NOW NOT HEADED TO THE SOUTH POLE...
... BUT, IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, TO THE ORGANIZATION'S SECRET BASE!
SO, WHERE'S THE PROBLEM? JUST STOP HIM!
THE PROBLEM IS THAT HE TURNED OFF THE TRANS-PONDER* AND CAN NO LONGER BE TRACED! THAT'S WHY I CALLED YOU!
* TRACKING DEVICE, USED BY SHIPS AND PLANES.
FROM THIS MOMENT, YOUR MISSION IS TO RECOVER WHITE DEEP!
IN THE OCEAN?! BUT THAT'S LIKE LOOKING FOR A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK!
I'M ALSO OUT OF FUEL! HOW DO I DO IT?
MAKE DO! YOU'RE A SECRET AGENT, NOT A COMBER!
WILL DOUBLEDUC SUCCEED IN THIS IMPOSSIBLE TASK? WE'LL SEE! MORE SPECIFICALLY IN THE LAST PART OF MISSION THERMAL HEART!
FINE